

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11400 041229Z

53

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /039 W

----- 130518

R 041038Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7526

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11400

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SOPN, IN

SUBJ: MOHAMMED YUNUS' ATTACK ON WESTERN PRESS: OTHER GOI
REACTIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 11284

1. EMBOFF WAS TOLD LAST NIGHT OF COMMENT BY MEA FONSEC JAGAT MEHTA TO INDIAN FRIEND AFTER LEARNING OF REMARKS BY MOHAMMED YUNUS ON WESTERN PRESS REPORTED REFTEL: WITH CLEAR DISMAY, MEHTA SAID, "YUNUS HAS UNDONE IN ONE HOUR THE DIPLOMATIC WORK OF A YEAR*" THE PM'S PRESS SECRETARY, SHARDAPRASAD, WAS REPORTED BY THE SAME SOURCE AS HAVING SAID THAT YUNUS' REMARKS WERE "SIMPLY MAD." A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TOLD POLCOUNSELOR THIS MORNING THAT "NO ONE SHOULD TAKE YUNUS' LANGUAGE SERIOUSLY. THAT'S THE WAY PATHANS TALK, AND HE SAYS THE SAME THING TO A PUBLIC AUDIENCE HE MIGHT SAY IN YOUR LIVING ROOM, WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCE."

2. COMMENT: AS WE NOTED REFTEL, YUNUS' STYLE IS NOTABLY OFF-HAND. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS EXPECTED HE WOULD BE CRITICAL OF THE WESTERN PRESS BUT IT IS
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INTERESTING TO NOTE THE DESCRIBED REACTION OF OFFICIALS TO

THE PARTICULAR FORM HIS CRITICISM TOOK. THE FRG EMBASSY
INFORMS US, AS DID THE BRITISH, THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT TO
TAKE ANY FORMAL NOTE WITH THE GOI OF YUNUS' REMARKS.
SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE11400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760300-0800
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760888/aaaaczbw.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 NEW DELHI 11284
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOHAMMED YUNUS' ATTACK ON WESTERN PRESS: OTHER GOI REACTIONS
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, IN, US, FR, UK, (YUNUS, MOHAMMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006